



HAMATEURCHATTER



One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 16 No. 05 - May, 2008

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Howard, AB9FH



It is hard to believe two years have passed. I have enjoyed being your president and if you were at the last meeting you know I've signed up to do it again. Whether or not I get to, that's up to you. We have accomplished some things: we've kept the club solvent, celebrated our 90th anniversary, brought computer logging to Field Day, heard about software controlled radios, and many other things. I say "we" because I have done very little myself. I have had the privilege of working with some great Board members and fellow officers. What would I do in the next two years? We have some good ideas I'd like to see implemented; things we've begun and I would like to see move forward. More than half of the people who have attended a meeting only attended one or two all year. I would make sure we continue to make an effort to greet visitors personally, so they feel welcome. I would like to see an effort made to invite folks to meetings. I would try to continue to have interesting programs. I'd like to see some building programs; it seems like a long time since we have had one of those. I want to encourage participation in club traditions like Field Day and the auction. I would explore other ways we can cooperate with other local clubs.

I attended the Club Presidents Roundtable at the Cedarburg SwapFest. I want to encourage future club presidents to attend these. They have been a great source of ideas. We have contributed too: our idea about a club officer's manual has been copied by at least two other clubs.

Club auction and elections this month! We will keep the business portion of the meeting short; just enough time for reports, accepting nominations and voting. All four officer positions and two Board spots are

available. So far we have one nomination for President and one for the Board. There will be some ARRL books on the auction block; there is usually more than one antenna, test equipment, and some real white elephants. Bring out those treasures and go home with some green. Anything you'd like to throw the club's way would be gratefully accepted, of course.

Special event – Kids Day at Pioneer Village; at the last meeting we related the story. The folks at Pioneer Village wanted to hold an event to encourage attendance for our Field Day, so they planned a free admission weekend. They chose June 21-22, the weekend before Field Day. However, in one of those lucky coincidences you can't plan, Saturday June 21st is ARRL Kids Day. We couldn't have picked a better event. The kids who come to see the exhibits and people in costume will also have a chance to experience something from a more modern time, and to talk with other kids all over the country. I think we have a real opportunity to make an impression on kids and their parents. We can have a table set up with information and a few friendly hams to answer questions. We will want to have HF and VHF stations and somebody to help operate them. With just a few volunteers, this will take just a few hours for each of us; though I suspect this event will be fun enough we won't mind taking the time. If you can't make it out to Pioneer Village, consider listening for us and giving out a few contacts. I will have a flyer at the next meeting.

I hope to see you on May 29th. Bring your nominations and treasures -- it's for the future of the club!

73 de

AB9FH

MRAC Officers

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| President Howard Parks | AB9FH |
| Vice President Joe Schwarz | N9UX |
| Secretary Sarah Parks | KB9ZNC |
| Treasurer Mark Tellier | AB9CD |

Board of Directors

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Brian Bieger ('07-'09) | KC9HEK |
| Pancho Doneis ('07-'09) | KA9OFA |
| Tom Liebe ('06-'08) | WI9TOM |
| Al Maahs ('07-'09) | KC9IJJ |
| Ted Stiller ('06-'08) | WA9RDI |

HamateurChatter Editor

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Pancho Doneis | KA9OFA |
| New: | (414) 344-4694 |

HamateurChatter Emailings

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Joe Schwarz | N9UX |
|-------------|------|

Regular Mailings

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Dick Wood | W9JBE |
|-----------|-------|

Club/VEC Phone no. is

**(414) 332-MRAC or
(414) 332-6722**

Visit our website at:

www.w9rh.org

Address correspondence to:

M. R. A. C.
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695
or w9rh@arrl.net

NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

| DAY | TIME | MHz | ACTIVITY | |
|-------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Daily | 6:00-8:00 AM | 14.2900 | Milwaukee / Florida (SSB) | |
| Daily | 5:15-6:00 AM | 3.9850 | Wisconsin SSB net | |
| Daily | 7:30 AM | 144.1550 | Breakfast Round Table (SSB) | |
| Daily | 9:30 PM | 3.9725 | Country Cousins Net | |
| Mon. | 8:00 PM | 146.8650- | ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news) | |
| Mon. | 8:00 PM | 146.4450 | Emergency Net | |
| Mon. | 8:45 PM | 147.1650 | ARRL voice news (ARES) | |
| Mon. | 9:00 PM | 50.1600 | 6 m. SSB Net | |
| Mon. | 9:00 PM | 147.1650 | ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha) | |
| Tue. | 9:00 AM | 50.1600 | 6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net | |
| Tue. | 8:00 PM | 144.2500 | Badger Contesters (SSB) | |
| Wed. | 8:00 PM | 28.365 | MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net | |
| | | | | Wed. 8:00 PM 145.130- ARRL voice news |
| | | | | Wed. 9:00 PM 145.130- MAARS Swapnet |
| | | | | Wed. 8:00 PM 147.270+ Weather & Swap Net |
| | | | | Thu. 8:00 PM 50.160 MRAC 6 m. SSB Net |
| | | | | Thu. 9:00 PM 146.910- Computer Net |
| | | | | Fri 8:00 PM 28.490 MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB) |
| | | | | Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390- W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net |
| | | | | Sat 9:00 PM 146.910- Saturday Night Fun Net |
| | | | | Sun. 8:30 AM 3.985 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB) |
| | | | | Sun.9:00 AM 145.565 X-Country Simplex Group (FM) |
| | | | | Sun.10:00 AM 443.800 FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet |
| | | | | Sun.8:00 PM 28.365 MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net |
| | | | | Sun. 8:00 PM 146.910- Information Net |
| | | | | Sun. 9:00 PM 146.910- Swap Net |

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 meters and above are USB

HAMATEUR CHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

CREDITS

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9FH KA9OFA KB9ZNC
KF9PU

Our thanks also goes to:

Rita Doneis, Tom Fuszard,
Al Maahs, and Hal Newton, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.



Thanks also to Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Thanks to Brian White, who administers our Web Site.

Tom Czaja, Tom Fuszard, Larry Noldan, and Mark Tellier who manage our VEC.

T h a n k Y O U !

Chatter Deadline is the 7th day of the month.

APR. 21, BOD NOTES

- MRAC Board Meeting Notes
- – April 21st, 2008
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- • There do not seem to be any available lapel mics that will work with our current wireless system.
- We can provide one if requested by a speaker.
- • Board members will be marking and mailing QSL cards for the 90th Anniversary Special Event.
- • Field Day plans are forming: we have a cook, Bob N9HWB.
- • We discussed plans for the special weekend/Kids Day event at Pioneer Village right before Field Day.
- • We reviewed ideas from our January meeting devoted to membership, and Board members have volunteered to take on specific tasks from the list.
- • We discussed arrangements and promotion for the upcoming auction and election.
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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 4/24/08

By SARAH PARKS, KB9ZNC

President Howard, AB9FH, called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

- Following Buzz Talk, secretary Sarah, KB9ZNC, read the minutes of the last meeting. Following a motion by Brian, KC9HEK, seconded by Pancho, KA9OFA, the minutes were accepted as read.
- Treasurer Mark, AB9CD, read the treasurer's report, which was approved on a motion by Tom, WI9TOM, seconded by Brian, K9LCQ.
- Howard, AB9FH, showed the club the QSL card designed for the 90th Anniversary Special Event. Pancho, KA9OFA, FD co-chair, announced that Bob Fetterly, N9HWB will be cooking for us at Field Day.
- Howard, AB9FH, announced the Pioneer Village, our hosts for Field Day, had planned a free admission weekend (for Ozaukee County residents) in order to

help us promote Field Day. Unfortunately they chose the weekend before. The timing is fortunate as the Saturday of that weekend is Kids Day. Howard said we would need volunteers to talk to visitors and to operate a radio or two. If we can get 8 volunteers, no one will have to be there more than three-four hours. There will be a flyer and a sign-up sheet at the May meeting.

- Joe, N9UX, spoke about the upcoming auction and election and asked for nominations—two were made.
- Brian, K9LCQ, announced that the organizers of the FM Simplex Contest had decided to make a special award to a 10-year-old ham from New York who sent in a log.
- It was announced that the club would have a table at the Cedarburg SwapFest May 3rd.

HAM RADIO & PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

A WINNING COMBINATION TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

With spring almost here and summer just around the corner, that means it's time for another season of charity walks and runs.

These public service events provide hams an excellent opportunity to use their equipment and skills in a way that benefits the local community. In turn, the public gets the chance to see us in action and further their understanding of amateur radio.

Depending on the size of your community, two or three dozen walks, runs, and rides may occur throughout the season. Of these, typically only a handful are large enough to warrant participation by amateur radio. However, they are great opportunities, and you should consider getting involved.

These events often require 15 to 20 ham volunteers, sometimes more. Hams assist the net control operator, ride in a SAG wagon or with a route captain, and man the rest stops. Each position is vital and gives you a chance to interact with event participants.

Those who prefer to walk or ride the course instead should consider taking along an H-T. Net control always appreciates an extra set of eyes on the route. This also provides you the opportunity to talk up amateur radio as you are pedaling or walking. The sight of your radio or antenna system can spark questions from other participants. Take a moment or two to explain amateur radio and how we are involved in the event.

Dont be surprised if you hear a hearty "thanks." Many of these riders and walkers know that amateur radio is assisting with the event; they just haven't met any hams up front. Your professionalism and enthusiasm can do wonders for our community and help ensure that we are asked to help out the following year.

For the latest information on upcoming special events, tune in to the information or public service net held in your community.

MRAC ANNUAL AUCTION

By PANCHO DONEIS, KA9OFA

Don't Forget our Annual Auction which takes place at this month's membership meeting, **May 29 at 7:00 p.m.** at:

Redemption Lutheran Church

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI.

Bring your goodies and/or your money. It's for a good cause. You could donate the entire amount to the Club or you could take the cash with the exception of a small, fixed amount to the Club.

It's a great way to unload some of the surplus HAM

and other electronic gear that you may have been accumulating for just such a time. OR you may have been looking for a particular item, which just may show up at this auction. Lots of good stuff.

At any rate the auction is good entertainment when our auctioneer, Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP starts describing the different items for sale, etc.

Come on over and be a part of the excitement and action of our annual auction which has been occurring for many years.

GOOD STUFF and GREAT FUN!!!

FIELD DAY IS NEXT MONTH

By PANCHO DONEIS, KA9OFA

DON'T forget to put **June 28 and 29** on your calendar so that you can be one of those fortunate people to operate on the HF bands at Field Day. That's a Saturday and Sunday.

We will be set up again at Pioneer Village just 10 miles north of Cedarburg on Highway "I", just north of a golf course. It's a beautiful spot for Field Day.

Pioneer Village is a site which allows you to see how they lived back in the pioneer days. There are home settings as well as trade shops there to see. There is also the old Cedarburg Train Depot which has working telegraph equipment as well as a lot of other neat things to see, as well as a Milwaukee Road caboose set on tracks in front.

Our club has the use of the train depot for the two-day event. If we should have inclement weather in which case we can pull our equipment into the depot and continue operating unless there's lightning.

This will also be our annual Club Picnic on Saturday around noon.

We will commence setting up around 8:00 a.m. on Sat. June 28 and start operating around noon. Hopefully we will have enough operators and good operating conditions to operate through the night. Then the operating comes to a halt at noon on Sun. June 29. Then we get to

tear everything down and go home to a well deserved rest.

We will be using networked computer for logging, but DON'T be scared off by that. The logging program is very easy to use and when you're through you'll wonder how we got along without it.

Expect to have a great time there.

We also will be setting up the weekend before on June 21 and 22 in the same location.

You will be able to get into Pioneer Village for FREE!

Also, you could help us out by operating or just talking to the public about HAM radio and MRAC.

This is an opportunity to show the public what HAM radio is about and some of the fun things you can do in our great hobby.

We will have a couple of HF stations set up to operate.

Come on up and enjoy the weather, HAM radio, and Pioneer village, all for FREE!

Hope to see you there.

EVENTS

MRAC Membership Meeting

Thu. -May 29, 2008

Annual Auction and
Election of Officers and
Two Board members

www.w9rh.org

Princeton HamFest,*
Computer & Hobby Show
June 1, 2008
Bureau Co. Fairgrounds
Princeton Illinois,
<http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm>
T/I on 146.955-600 PL 103.5



Grand Rapids IRA SwapFest *

Sat. - Jun. 7, 2008

Fairgrounds Park

Hudsonville, MI

GPS coordinates: N 43° 51' 54", W 83° 52' 32"

www.w8hvg.org.

T/I on 147.160 link system (94.8 p.)

Wheaton SwapFest

Sun. - Jun. 8, 2008

DuPage Co. Fairgrounds

Wheaton, IL

www.K9ONA.com or Email: WD9GJK@arrl.net

T/I on 146.52 simp or

146.37/97 (107.2 PL)

MRAC Membership Meeting

Thu. -June 26, 2008

www.w9rh.org

ARRL Field Day 2008

Sat. & Sun. - Jun. 28 & 29

Pioneer Village
Cedarburg, WI

SMARC SwapFest '08

Sun. July 6, 2008

American Legion Post 434

Oak Creek, WI
T/I 146.52 simp

* indicates VE testing
is available.

VE NEWS BY Tom, KF9PU

Fourteen candidates visited our test session at AES on April 26. Nine walked away with either a new or upgraded license.

VEs who assisted that day were:

Tom Czaja ----- KG9EE
Tony Kolar ----- AB9PN
Ken Hahn ----- WK9H
Jim Albrinck ----- K9QLP
Jim Cronin ----- K9UGD
Gail Cronin ----- KB9RJE
Bernie Golownia ----- AA9CI
Hal Newton ----- KB9OZN
Mark Tellier ----- AB9CD

Our next session will be at AES on May 31, and will run from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m..

VEC financial report for April:

Beginning balance: \$4,380.62
Income: \$80.00
Expenses: 0
Ending balance: \$4,460.62

REMINDERS

Please check into our nets on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Our **Six Meter SSB net** is **Thursday @ 8:00 p.m. at 50.160 MHz USB**

Our **Ten Meter SSB** net is Friday at **8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz ± 5 KHz USB**.

Our **Two Meter FM** net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz**, minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz**.

Join us for **Saturday Morning Breakfast** at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.**

We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

CQ Third Tuesday

Come to CQ Third Tuesday at:

Old Country Buffet

16750 West Bluemound Rd.
Brookfield, WI

This gathering of HAMs meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

We start arriving there at 11:00 a.m. and leave when we're full and/or all talked out.

EXAM SCHEDULE BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

MRAC VEC

Exam Schedule

For upcoming Test Sessions:

May 31 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Extra Class Question Pool

Changes July 1, 2008

July 26 9:30 a.m. @ AES

No testing in June & August.

Sept. 27 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Nov. 1 9:00 a.m. @ Elks

Club (MRC SwapFest)

Nov. 29 9:30 a.m. @ AES



AES = Amateur Electronic Supply

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

The next meeting of MRAC
will be **Thursday, May 29, 2008**
at **7:00 p.m.**

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

**Our Repeater,
Talk It up.
145.390- MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)**

**Our May 29th mtg
will feature the
MRAC Annual Auction.**

**Also at this meeting we
will elect a new slate
of officers, including:
President, Vice President,
Secretary, Treasurer, and
two Board members.**

Visit our website at: **www.w9rh.org**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6722



First Class

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

M.R.A.C.